

Terrorist Groups Are Headquartered in London

This is excerpted from an open letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, dated Jan. 11, 2000, that appeared in the Jan. 21, 2000 issue of EIR.

On Oct. 8, 1997, the U.S. State Department, in compliance with the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1996, released a list of 30 Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), banned from operating on U.S. soil.

Of the 30 groups named, at least five maintain headquarters in Britain:

The Islamic Group, and its subsidiary arm, **Islamic Jihad**, are headquartered in London. In February 1997, the British government formally granted permission to Abdel Majid and Adel Tawfiq al Sirri to establish Islamic Group fundraising and media offices in London. Abdel Majid was implicated in the October 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Abdel Tawfiq al Sirri, the co-director of the movement, has also been granted political asylum in Britain, despite the fact that he was also sentenced to death *in absentia* for his part in the 1993 attempted assassination of Egyptian Prime Minister Atif Sidqi.

Similarly, the **Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA)**, which was responsible for the assassination of Algerian President Mohamed Boudiaf on June 29, 1992, has its international headquarters in London. Sheikh Abu Qatabda and Abu Musab communicate military orders to GIA terrorists operating in Algeria and France via the London-based party organ, *Al Ansar*. Sheikh Abu Qatabda was granted political asylum in Britain in 1992, after spending

years working in Peshawar, Pakistan with various Afghani mujahideen groups. A third London-based GIA leader, Abou Farres, oversees operations targetted against France. He was granted asylum in Britain in 1992, after he was condemned to death in Algeria for acknowledging responsibility for a bombing at Algiers airport, which killed nine people and wounded 125.

The **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)**, known as the "Tamil Tigers," headquartered in London since 1984, have carried out a decade-long terror campaign against the government of Sri Lanka, in which they have killed an estimated 130,000 people. In addition, LTTE was responsible for the suicide-bomber murder of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on May 21, 1991, and the similar assassination of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa on May 1, 1993.

In the case of the **Kurdish Workers Party (PKK)**, the British government played an even more direct role in supporting the 17-year war against the Turkish government by the Kurdish separatists. An estimated 19,000 people have been killed in Southeast Turkey since the PKK launched its terror war in 1983. In May 1995, after the PKK was expelled from Germany, for seizing control of Turkish diplomatic buildings in 18 European cities, the British government licensed MED-TV in London, through which the PKK broadcasts four hours a day into its enclaves inside Turkey, and all over Europe.

The same Lord Avebury has been an active backer of the Peru Support Group in London, which has served as a major international fundraising front for the Peruvian narco-terrorist group Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso). Adolfo Héctor Olaechea, in July 1992, established the group's "foreign affairs bureau," in London; he received a letter of recognition from Buckingham Palace, which he circulated widely. The letter read in part, "The private secretary is commanded by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to acknowledge receipt of the letter from Mr. Olaechea, and to say that it has been passed on to the Home Office."